REIMEI NO HANA

KUJOU TOMOYODO A.K.A. INARIYA FUSANOSUKE

CHAPTER 2

THUNK
AT KOUYA TEMPLE
SO BASICALLY
MAKE HOUSE KAMO AND THE CAPITAL'S ONMYOUJI LOSE FACE, RIGHT?
HOW DARE THEY PUT ON AIRS BEFORE US!
RELAX! WHEN THINGS GET I CONFUSIOUS,
STOMP
YOU GUYS...
JUST PROTECT YOUR PRECIOUS "TREASURE".
YOU BASTARDS ARE ONLY GOOD AT CUTTING EACH OTHER DOWN, HUH
THE ONE WHO TAKES DOWN THE OPPOSITION WILL BE ME
ASHIYA DOUMAN!

-THE UNYIELDING FLOWER-
KYOTO
KAMO
RESIDENCE

FATHER!?
STOP THE PRAYERS
THE HEAD ONMYOUJI KANO TADAYUKI HAS FALLEN ILL
PLEASE DON'T SAY SUCH FOOLISH THINGS
THE PRAYERS WILL SURELY CURE YOU
THERE'S NO CURE FOR MY ILLNESS
MY TIME HAS COME
RUSTLE
SEIMEI?
YASUNORI DONO
HOW IS TADAYUKI-DONO?
...NOT GOOD.

YEAH
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
YOU LOOK PALE...
I'M FINE.
I JUST DIDN'T SLEEP WELL LAST NIGHT
DON'T WORRY, I'LL REST LATER.
BUT...
WELL, I HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO
SINCE MY FATHER IS SERIOUSLY ILL,
I HAVE TO MANAGE THE HOUSE-HOLD IN HIS PLACE
I CAN'T FALL BEHIND ON MY ONMYOUJI WORK EITHER
YASUNORI-DONO!
I ALSO HAVE TO SEND WORD TO THE MINISTRY OF CENTRAL AFFAIRS...
MOBILE

SORRY
TO THINK I WOULD BE IN SUCH A PATHETIC STATE
YASUNORI-DONO..
CATCH!
IT'S USELESS
--PLEASE TRY ONE MORE PRAYER. I BEG YOU.
THE PRAYERS AREN'T WORKING
MY FATHER IS WELL BEYOND HIS YEARS
ALL WE CAN DO IS WATCH HIM DECLINE
I INTENDED TO BE PREPARED
FOR SUCH A DAY WHEN IT CAME, BUT..
MY FATHER REFUSES TO HAVE THEM. HE WON'T BUDGE ON THE MATTER EITHER.
NOTHING MORE
IT'S THE SAME AS WHEN HE DECIDED TO TAKE YOU IN

THERE WERE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO MINDED BIRTH AND BREEDING
WHO COMPLETELY OPPOSED THE IDEA.
SO HE SAYS, BUT---
IT IS YOUR JOB TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
I THOUGHT I WOULD COLLAPSE FROM THE STRESS.
DOES IT MATTER? THIS CHILD'S TALENT TO SEE SPIRITS IS EVIDENT
I RECOMMEND HE SHOULD BE TRAINED AS AN ONMYOUJI
YASUNORI AS AN OLDER APPRENTICE
THAT BOY. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT HE IS THE CHILD OF A DEMON.
YASUNORI-DONO
I WON'T LET THEM HURT YOU!
SEIMEI, WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE THEY PICKING ON YOU AGAIN?
EVEN AS A DEMON CHILD WITH UNUSUAL POWER, SHUNNED BY ALL...
HE PROTECTED AND RAISED ME LIKE I WAS THE MOST PRECIOUS TO HIM
YASUNORI-DONO...
THEY CAN SAY WHAT THEY WANT
BUT NO MATTER WHAT...
IT'S MY TURN NOW..

I'LL BE YOUR ASSISTANT
ALRIGHT

UNDER-STOOD!
BUT I'LL WORK YOU TO DEATH, SO PREPARE YOURSELF

SO..
THE MINISTRY OF CENTRAL AFFAIRS HAS DECIDED
I WILL TAKE CHARGE OF THE ONMYOUJI
ANYONE OBJECT?
THERE IS NO OBJECTION
HOWEVER YASUNORI-DONO..

"MINAZUKI HARAI (THE GREAT PURIFICATION OF JUNE)
ONE OF THE TWO MAIN SHINTO SEASONAL PURIFICATION CEREMONIES
YOU THINK I'M INCAPABLE OF SUCH A TASK?
NOT AT ALL
A COMMON PURIFICATION FOR THE LAST DAY OF THE MONTH CANNOT BE COMPARED TO THE MINAZUKI HARAI!"
WHY? HE'S NOT ASSIGNED TO ANYTHING RIGHT NOW.
WE ARE UNEASY ABOUT ENTRUSTING SEIMEI WITH SUCH AN IMPORTANT CEREMONY
WITH YOUR STRANGE LINEAGE, YOU SHOULD NOT BE PRESENTED BEFORE THE EMPEROR
EXACTLY
YOUR SOCIAL STATUS IS.. HOW SHOULD I PUT IT..?
ER..
BUT..
THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT YOUR ABILITIES
BELITTLING THE FORMALITIES WOULD RUIN THE REPUTATION OF THE ONMYOUJI.
I AGREE WITH THIS DECISION
YOU'VE SAID TOO MUCH!
THEY'RE RIGHT—
IF IT'S JUST POWER WE'RE TALKING ABOUT, THEN EVEN SOME ROADSIDE PRIEST WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH.

WHY DID YOU QUIT?
HOW CAN YOU JUST AGREE TO THAT?
SEIMEI
I THOUGHT IT WAS REASONABLE
BUT SEIMEI...
I'LL FIND A WAY—
DON'T!
BEING STUBBORN ABOUT THE MATTER WILL ONLY AGGRAVATE THE SITUATION
JUST DON'T YASUNORI-DONO
YOU'VE BECOME STUBBORN
MORE THAN EVER BEFORE..
THIS IS..

...THE SCAR YOU RECEIVED FROM PROTECTING ME
YOU ALONE PROTECTED ME FROM THE OBOE
WHEN EVERYONE ELSE ABANDONED ME
ENOUGH...
I DON'T EVEN LIKE TO THINK ABOUT IT
IS THIS REALLY OKAY WITH YOU!?
IT'S ALL NECESSARY WORK FOR THE ONMYOU-RYOU TO RUN SMOOTHLY
THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER THINGS TO DO AS AN ONMYOUJI
READ STARS, MAKE ALMANACS
SEIMEI

IS THE ONMYOU-RYOU IN HERE?
YES
YES, BUT...
WHO ARE YOU?
WE CANNOT PERMIT YOU TO ENTER THE IMPERIAL PALACE WITHOUT A--
GASP
KOOM

CLINK
YOU GUYS ARE THE JUDICIAL OFFICE*, RIGHT?
WHO ARE YOU?
THUNK
*STATUTORY OFFICE IN THE HEIAN ERA
*MAGICAL PROTECTIVE BARRIER
YASUNORI-DONO!
THE KEKKAI* OF THE IMPERIAL PALACE IS BROKEN!
OF ALL THINGS TO HAPPEN
THUNK
SLIDE
THIS IS THE IMPERIAL PALACE. DON'T YOU KNOW YOU'RE BEING INSOLENT?
YEAH, I KNOW
DEMON EYES!?

© D.N.ANGEL OF HYOGO PREFECTURE

I'M A MONK FROM BANSHUU PROVINCE' HARIMA VILLAGE.. ASHIYA DOUMAN
I M HERE TO TEST MY STRENGTH
AGAINST KYOTO'S ONMYOUJI
AHO!
THIS JOKE IS IN POOR TASTE!
I'M NOT SCREWING AROUND.
I'LL BE DEFEATING YOU GUYS IN FRONT OF ALL THESE PEOPLE HERE
SURELY I'LL GET A CHALLENGE RIGHT?
HYUU
GRIGRALE

YASUNORI-DONO!
RUMBLE
TOO SLOW!
HAH!
DAMN
BOOM
*A PAPER DOLL USED FOR SEALING & OTHER CEREMONIES
USING A HITO-GATA*?
NOT BAD
IT'S GOT AN HONOR STUDENT FEEL TO IT
PLIT
CRACKLE

SLASH
SMACK
THIS..
THAT WAS CARELESS OF YOU
MY HITOGATA..
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
CRACKLE
SEIMEI!
STAY AWAY!
MY SIDE WILL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO WIN
EVEN IF IT MEANS I HAVE TO STEAL SOMEONE ELSE'S SPELL
OR SELL MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD TO A DEMON GOD.

BUT YOU GUYS AREN'T READY TO FIGHT DIRTY ARE YOU?
YOU'RE JUST A BUNCH OF PRISSY BUREAUCRATS
IN THE END, YOU CAN'T PROTECT A SINGLE IMPORTANT THING
ALL YOUR TALK IS LAUGHABLE
NOT PREPARED TO FIGHT DIRTY
HUH?
MY THANKS.
NOW I DON'T NEED TO HOLD BACK
HYUU
SHOOT
SUKINE

POP
RUMBLE
DEVOUR HIM.
THAT S..
FIP
GAH
WHEW, SCARY!
LAND

DON!
Ah, well
HM HE DIDN'T GET EATEN?
ISN'T THAT AN INUGAMI!?
POINTING IN ACCUSATION
FREAKING OUT & BEING PISSED
YOU BASTARD!
NATURALLY I ALSO THOUGHT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO USE A "DISGUSTING EVIL SPIRIT" SINCE I'M SERVING THE EMPEROR
BUT...
AREN'T YOU AN ONMYOUJI SERVING THE EMPEROR!?
HOW CAN YOU KEEP SUCH A DISGUSTING EVIL SPIRIT?
A FEW THINGS HAPPENED IN MY PAST
THE DEMON BLOOD IN ME...
YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTICED IT SOONER

NO STATUS OR REPUTATION--
I HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE IN THIS WORLD
NO PARENTS
NO FAMILY CONNECTIONS
I DON'T MIND EITHER IF THE FIGHT GETS UGLY
SO YOU SEE...
THAT'S RIGHT--
RELENT-LESSLY PROTECT YOU!
DAMN!
CAN
I WILL
WITH ALL MY STRENGTH,
KYU
EVEN IF I CAN'T STAND BY YOUR SIDE
BOOM

IT APPEARS MY GOD HATES YOUR MUTT SO
I'LL HAVE TO WITHDRAW THIS TIME.
THAT INUGAMI WAS CERTAINLY A SURPRISE
HYUU
KONGOU YASHA-OU'S CURSED MONSHIN?
RUMBLE
*A TYPE OF TATTOO
THAT MONSHIN* IS A SELF-CURSE INVOLVED IN THE DARK ARTS
ARE YOU ALRIGHT YASUNORI DONO?
WE'LL CONTINUE THIS MATCH ANOTHER TIME!
RUMBLE
...
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN TROUBLE-SOME IF YOU HAD BEEN TARGETED
He's running away!!
BUT HE'S COMING BACK!?

SMACK
NO FAMILY TO LOSE? HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH NONSENSE!
BUT...
WHA...?
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE WE BEEN TOGETHER?!
REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL OF- FICIAL-MENT-
AFTER HIM!
TO THINK YOU THOUGHT THAT WAY
IT KILLS

THE UNYIELDING FLOWER — END

〔まつろわぬ花・おわり〕

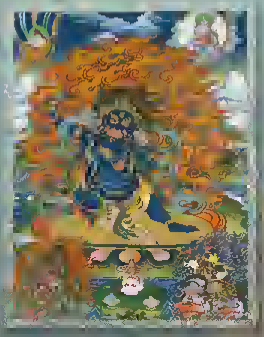
- Translation Notes -

Minazuki Harai

(the Great Purification of June)

One of the two main Shinto seasonal purification ceremonies. Performed to cleanse the entire population of spiritual "pollution" and provide protection from misfortune. Being a nationwide affair, the ceremony would be quite a public event with the Emperor present; anything dirty or unsightly can't be allowed in his holy presence. Hence this is the problem the onmyouji on pg 98 have with Seimei, who is half fox-demon, due to their racial discrimination

(...logspot.com/2006/...-ceremony nagoshi.html)



Kongou Yasha-ou

(Sandskrit: Vajrapani)

A Buddhist deity who cuts through delusion and symbolizes the power of truth. He wields a thunderbolt scepter, representing the power of compassion.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vajrapani)

An Analysis of "Connections"

In Japanese there are all sorts of "connections" with plenty of similarly sounding & written words to represent them. In turn, this has caused some confusion among the characters and perhaps the readers (since English isn't so ambiguous un this subject).

pg 39. "Family connections" = social class. Seimei's retort to Douman's comment. Basically, he's saying he didn't skip through life by pulling strings & using his family's status but got to where he is through his own achievements and hard work. Thus, he isn't some useless pansy, as Douman described the Onmyouji to be, and has no problem fighting dirty as well as winning the duel.

pg 41: "Family connections" = love. Yasunori was pissed because he thought Seimei was being emo for not being loved by anyone and forgetting how much Yasunori loves him.

pg 42: Seimei is laughing at himself, realizing Yasunori's definition of family is the important one. He's not deprived like he was saying earlier, but lucky, because Yasunori loves him and brought him up with plenty of that love.

Questions, concerns, moral or religious outrage?

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